

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1, 2 and 12 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 3-11 and add new Claims 15 and 16 as follows.

Claims 1 and 2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The A manipulator comprising: according to claim 1, wherein~~

a contact portion to a manipulation target object;

a pressure chamber;

fluid control means for controlling pressure in said pressure chamber;

and

an opening at said contact portion, said opening communicating with said pressure chamber, wherein

the target object is manipulated by causing said fluid control means to control inflow/outflow of a fluid through said opening, and wherein

the manipulator is a gripper type manipulator having a plurality of said contact portions at opposite positions and clamping the target object by said contact portions, and

each of said contact portions has said opening for which the inflow/outflow of the fluid is controlled by said fluid control means.

4. (Currently Amended) The manipulator according to claim [[1]] 3,

wherein

said contact portion has a recessed portion which is fitted on the target object to clamp the target object, and

the contact portion having said recessed portion has the opening for which the inflow/outflow of the fluid is controlled by ~~the~~ said fluid control means.

5. (Currently Amended) The manipulator according to claim 3, wherein

~~the~~ said fluid control means controls attitude of the target object by generating a couple of forces by executing at least one of ejection and drawing of the fluid to a position shifted from a center of gravity of the target object.

6. (Currently Amended) The manipulator according to claim 4, wherein

~~the~~ said fluid control means controls attitude of the target object by generating a couple of forces by executing at least one of ejection and drawing of the fluid to a position shifted from a center of gravity of the target object.

7. (Currently Amended) The manipulator according to claim 3, wherein

~~the~~ said fluid control means performs an operation of feeding the target object by executing at least one of ejection of the fluid from the openings which ~~are~~ oppose each other on both sides and located on a side opposite each other on both sides and located on a side

opposite to a direction in which the target object should be fed and drawing of the fluid from the openings which ~~are~~ oppose each other on both sides and are located on the same side as the direction in which the target object should be fed.

8. (Currently Amended) The manipulator according to claim 4, wherein ~~the~~ said fluid control means performs an operation of feeding the target object by executing at least one of ejection of the fluid from the openings which are oppose each other on both sides and located on a side opposite to a direction in which the target object should be fed and drawing of the fluid from the openings which ~~are~~ oppose each other on both sides and are located on the same side as the direction in which the target object should be fed.

9. (Currently Amended) The manipulator according to claim 3, wherein ~~the~~ said fluid control means performs an operation of feeding the target object by controlling to make the fluid flowing through the openings on the same side as a direction in which the target object should be fed have a flow velocity different from that of the fluid flowing through the openings on a side opposite to the direction in which the target object should be fed.

10. (Currently Amended) The manipulator according to claim 4, wherein ~~the~~ the fluid control means performs an operation of feeding the target object by controlling to make the fluid flowing through the openings on the same side as a direction in which the target

object should be fed have a flow velocity different from that of the fluid flowing through the openings on a side opposite to the direction in which the target object should be fed.

11. (Currently Amended) The manipulator according to claim 1, wherein the said pressure chamber is connected to a separated fluid storage and a feeding device.

Claims 12-14. (Cancelled).

15. (New) A gripper type manipulator comprising first and second members each having a contact portion for gripping a target object, wherein each of said first and second members comprises:

an opening at said contact portion;

a pressure chamber communicating with said opening; and

fluid control means for controlling pressure in said pressure chamber,

and wherein

the target object is manipulated by causing said fluid control means of said first and second members to control inflow/outflow of a fluid through said openings.

16. (New) A gripper type manipulator comprising first and second members each having a contact portion for gripping a target object, wherein each of said first and second members comprises a plurality of sets, each set comprising:

an opening at said contact portion;

a pressure chamber communicating with said opening; and

fluid control means for controlling pressure in said pressure chamber,

and wherein

the target object is manipulated by causing said fluid control means of said first and second members to control inflow/outflow of a fluid through said openings.